

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## State Ends Fire Season 2001

**Sacramento-** With the end of wildland fire season in its San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino units, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) closes Fire Season 2001 as of 8 a.m. Monday December 3. Cooler weather allowed the end of fire season in most of the state last month, but these three units are just now able to lessen their response status. By closing fire season, CDF releases seasonal firefighters, reduces dispatch levels and closes some remote wildland fire stations.

Statistically speaking this fire season would be considered moderate with 6,733 wildfires that burned 89,495 acres within CDF's jurisdiction. An increase in fire fighting resources provided by Governor Davis in June helped CDF keep the number of acres burned below the five-year average in spite of record low fuel moisture in the northern part of the state.

"However, the numbers don't tell the whole story. This was a very difficult year for CDF from a human perspective," said CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. "Two airtanker pilots were killed in a mid-air collision in August. We had several crews overrun by very aggressive fire this year, reminding us once again just how dangerous their work is. And several CDF firefighters responded to "Ground Zero" in New York as firefighters from all over the country tried to help during the worst incident in the history of the fire service. As this year comes to an end, we are both saddened by the great human loss and grateful for the heroic efforts of all CDF firefighters."

Director Tuttle adds, "CDF thanks those who made their property defensible and were careful with fire this year. Fire safety is a collaborative effort. We appreciate the support and cooperation we get from the citizens we serve."

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